Factsheet: Oman

Last update: 8 June 2014

Is there a national youth policy?

No

Oman has no national youth policy. Youth issues are tackled through sectoral development plans.

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

No national youth policy, nor governmental authority for youth affairs exists in Oman, and therefore no definition of youth could be ascertained.

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower House</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper House</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marriageable Age:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Without parental consent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With parental consent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

While the legal minimum age is 18, "custom still recognises marriages below the age of 18". Homosexual acts illegal. Source: UNODC, ILO, UNICEF (2011)

VOTING AGE

21
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MAJORITY AGE

18
Source: UN Children's Rights

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

9
Source: UN Children's Rights

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.44
132 out of 170 countries.
Year: 2013
Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

99.19%
Both sexes (15-24) %
Year: 2015
Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School
83.61%
Both sexes %
Year: 2012
Source: UNESCO

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

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Male (15-24) %

--
Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.
Source: World Bank

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.
3.30%
Both sexes (15-24) %
Year: 2010
Source: WHO

GAP is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

POLICY & LEGISLATION

No national youth policy exists, however Youth & Sports does feature in the Eighth Five-Year Development Plan 2011-2015. According to a 2011 report, Oman’s Eighth Five-Year Development Plan (2011–15), “focuses on the role of higher education in helping youth contribute to Oman’s development.” Oman has a “Fund for Development of Youth Projects” which acts as a “venture capital fund dedicated to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) started by Omani youth.”

The UNICEF country programme document 2012-2015 (2011) notes that the data and knowledge management work strand will support the development of a “multisectoral youth policy.” To date, there is not any indication that the development of a youth policy has started.

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
No single youth authority exists, but youth affairs is separated across numerous government ministries. The Ministry of Education is responsible for primary and secondary level learning, the Ministry of Higher Education responsible to the admission and management of university level education. The Ministry of Sports Affairs has responsibility for youth hostels. The Ministry of Social Development is responsible for children, women, families and NGOs, and is the lead authority in the UN Child Rights Periodic reports (2000 and 2006).

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

The official Facebook page of the Omani Youth Council (OYC) describes its vision as being the representation of Oman, by young people, at international forums and events. This is achieved through youth exchanges, international competitions, and by connecting national associations to international organisations. However, the structure and role of young people is unclear, and its role as a representation structure for youth is unclear.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

The Oman Economic Research report (2011) notes that the Oman Budget 2011 and the Eighth Five Year Plan 2011-2015 allocates a budget for “Youth and Sports” of OMR 25 million (USD 65.0 million). However, it is unclear how much is specifically spent on youth. According to the World Bank, Oman spent 4.32% of its GDP on education in 2009, but does not calculate what this translates to in terms of percentage of government expenditure.

### TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of GDP</th>
<th>% of gov. expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

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